

**44th Annual Meeting, 1992**  
**(Rep. int. Whal. Commn 43)**

**IWC Resolution 1992-2**

**Resolution on the need for research on the Environment and Whale Stocks in the Antarctic Region**

RECALLING the Commission's responsibility to promote research into whales and whaling in accordance with Article IV,1(a) of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling as endorsed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

RECALLING that Article V,1 of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling provides for the designation of sanctuary areas to achieve the Convention's objectives.

AWARE of the guidelines for establishing whale sanctuaries under this Article as recommended by the Technical Committee Working Group of the 34th Annual Meeting of the IWC (IWC/34/14).

RECOGNISING the ecological sensitivity of the Antarctic region and its particular importance as the largest single feeding area for Southern Hemisphere whales.

NOTING the French Government's proposal to the 44th Annual meeting of the IWC for a Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary (IWC/44/19).

NOTING the recognition given to the precautionary approach by UNCED in the face of inadequate scientific data and of the need to improve our understanding of the effects of global environmental change on marine ecosystems (Agenda 21, Chapter 17).

RECOGNISING the value of the Scientific Committee's work on the Comprehensive Assessment of Southern Hemisphere baleen whales and the need for it to continue.

CONSCIOUS of the advisory role and expertise of the Scientific Committee of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) to enhance our understanding of the Antarctic environment.

CONSCIOUS of the scope to develop existing links between the Scientific Committees of the IWC, CCAMLR and SCAR.

The Commission Decides

- i) That the Scientific Committee establish a regular agenda item to address the impact of environmental changes upon whale stocks.
- ii) That the Scientific Committee should contact CCAMLR, SCAR and other relevant organisations to exchange information on the effects of global environmental change in the Antarctic region which may be of relevance to whale stocks.
- iii) That the Scientific Committee should develop practical means to address the questions raised by these exchanges.